

**STATE OF ILLINOIS
ILLINOIS COMMERCE COMMISSION**

COMMONWEALTH EDISON COMPANY

Application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity, pursuant to Section 8-406.1 of the Illinois Public Utilities Act, and an Order pursuant to Section 8-503 of the Illinois Public Utilities Act, to Construct, Operate, and maintain a new 345 kilovolt transmission line in Ogle, DeKalb, Kane and DuPage Counties, Illinois

Docket 13-0657

DIRECT TESTIMONY OF JERRY DREXLER

1 **Q: Can you please provide your name and address.**

2 A: My name is Jerry Drexler and both my wife and I reside at 12N288 Waughon Road
3 Hampshire IL 60140.

4 **Q: What is the purpose of your testimony?**

5 A: I am providing this testimony in opposition of the ComEd Grand Prairie Gateway Projects
6 current proposed routing.

7 **Q: Can you tell the Commission about your background?**

8 A: After graduating from high school in 1988, I completed an Associates degree at Elgin
9 Community College. I then attended Northern Illinois University. Before completing my Bachelors
10 degree I left college to go to work in the family business.

11 **Q: Please tell the Commission about your family.**

12 A: The Drexler family moved from Wayne, Illinois to Burlington in 1974 along with the
13 business that my father had started in 1966, Drexler Horse Transportation Inc. My father, Sid, my
14 mother, Renee, and brother, Randy.

15 **Q: Can you tell us about the Drexler property?**

16 A: Yes. Over the past forty years the property has changed almost as much as our family.
17 None of the original buildings are still standing. In 1987 my father built a multi-use barn. The barn is
18 one-third truck garage and two-thirds horse stable. In 1990 my parents started construction of a
19 new home on the property. Shortly after, my mother was diagnosed with cancer. After completion
20 she spent her final days in the home. Over the next ten to twelve years my father acquired thirty
21 acres to the north of the original lot and forty acres to the south.

22 **Q: When did you move onto the property?**

23 A: In 1996 I married my wife Kristin and moved to Elgin. My son, Dylan was born in 1997 and
24 my second son was born in 1999. In that same year, my new family and I moved back to the
25 property in Burlington, which my father had moved out of.

26 **Q: How do you utilize the property?**

27 A: Over the next fifteen years, I shared with my two boys some of the same activities that I
28 had enjoyed with my brother and friends growing up on our rural property. With a pond, an over
29 three acre motor cross track and a creek running through the property my brother and I had spent
30 a lot of our childhood outside. My children, like I, used the property for horse back riding, catching
31 frogs and turtles in the pond, dirt bike and ATV riding, paint ball with friends, and camping.

32 **Q: Do you also run a business from the property?**

33 A: Yes. My father retired in 2007 leaving the family business to me, as well as the original
34 eight acres of property, the home and the barn.

35 **Q: Does this make the proposed route more troubling?**

36 A: Yes. The fact that we live and work on the property, we are here just about 24/7 so the
37 thought of the power lines being 275' from our house and 225' from our garage/stable is unsettling.
38 Then, when the second line is added it will be 175' from our house and 125' from our
39 garage/stable. This is simply too close. My family and I don't feel it's safe for our family to be
40 continuously exposed to power lines at such a close range. We will be able to hear the hum of the
41 power lines from any place on our property. A constant reminder of the possible threat.

42 **Q: But what about concerns for your business?**

43 A: As for our business, we ship and board horses of all shapes and sizes. From family pets to
44 expensive race horses and show horses. The health and safety of these horses is very important to
45 us and our customers. We are sure that our customers will be uncomfortable with the lines being

46 125' from our barn, thus hurting our business. Additionally, our employees are also concerned
47 about their safety. One of our employees has just returned back to work after being treated
48 successfully for stage four cancer. We are so happy to have him back. How can he then come to
49 work everyday to hear the hum of the power lines possibly less than 100' away from him and feel
50 safe? Without customers and employees we have no business.

51 **Q: Do you have a solution to the problem?**

52 A: Yes. I would propose that the Commission route the line further south, as shown in the
53 testimony of Jim Dauphinais. In the alternative, ComEd should route the line along the proposed
54 alternative route. With regards to the routing suggested by Mr. Dauphinais, it is my understanding
55 that when compared to the proposed primary route, the suggested routing is shorter, impacts fewer
56 homes, and removes 90 degree turns from the proposed transmission line.

57 **Q: Does this conclude your direct testimony?**

58 A: Yes. Thank you.